His Majesties DECLARATION TO All His loving Subjects, after His Victories over *THE LORD FAIRFAX* in the North, AND Sir *WILLIAM WALLER* in the West, AND The taking of Bristoll by His Majesties Forces.

Charles R.

OUr expresse pleasure is, That this Our Declaration be Published in all Churches and Chappells within the Kingdom of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*, by the Parsons, Vicars or Curates of the same

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His Majesties
DECLARATION
To all His loving Subjects,
AFTER
HIS VICTORIES OVER
The Lord Fairfax in the *North*, Sir William Waller in the *West*, and the taking of *Bristoll* by His Majesties Forces.

AS the Grievances and Losses of no particular Persons since these miserable bloody Distempers have disquieted this poor Kingdom, can be compared to the losse and dammage We Our Selfe have sustained, there having been no Victory obtained but in the Blood of Our Own Subjects, nor no Rapine or Violence committed but to the Impoverishment, and ruine of Our Own People; so a blessed and a happy peace cannot be so acceptable and welcome to any man as to Us. Almighty God to whom all the secrets of Our Heart are open, who hath so often, and so miraculously preserved Us, and to whose power alone We must attribute the goodnesse of Our present Condition, (how unhappy soever it is with reference to the publike Calamities)

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knows with what unwillingnesse, with what anguish of Soule, We submitted Our Selfe to the necessity of taking up Defensive Armes: and the World knows with what Justice and Bounty We had repared Our Subjects for all the Pressures and Inconveniences they had born, by such excellent Lawes as would for ever have prevented the like; and with what earnestnesse and Importunity We desired to adde any thing for the establishment of the Religion, Lawes, and Liberty of the Kingdom. How all these have been Disturbed, Invaded, and almost Destroyed by Faction, Sedition, and Treason, by those who have neither Reverence to God, or Affection to Men, but have sacrificed both to their own Ends and Ambition, is now so evident, that We hope, as God hath wonderfully manifested his care of Us, and his defence of his and Our most Just Cause, so he hath so farre touched the hearts of Our People, that their Eyes are at last opened to see how miserably they have been seduced, and to abhorre those Persons whose Malice and Subtilty have seduced them to dishonour Him, to Rebell against Us, and to bring so much misery and calamity upon their native Country.

We well remember the Protestation voluntarily made by Us, in the head of that small Army We were master of in September last, to defend and maintain the true reformed Protestant Religion, and if it should please God by his blessing upon that Army to preserve Us from this Rebellion, that We would maintain the just Priviledges and Freedom of Parliament, and govern by the known Lawes of the Land, for whose defence in truth that Army was onely raised, and hath been since kept. And there cannot be a more seasonable time to renew that Protestation then now, when God hath vouchsafed Us so many Victories & Successes, and hath rendered the power of those who seek to de-

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strop this, lesse formidable then it hath been, (so that we shall probably not fall under the Scandalous Imputation, which hath usually attended Our Messages of peace, That they proceeded from the weakness of Our power, not love of Our People,) and when there is more freedom in many Counties for Our good Subjects to receive true Information of their own and Our Condition, the knowledge whereof hath been with equall Industry and Injustice kept from them, as other Acts of Cruelty have been Imposed on them. We doe therefore declare to all the World, in the presence of Almighty God, to whom we must give a strict accompt of all Our Professions and Protestations, That we are so farre from intending any alteration of the Religion established (as hath been often falsely, scandalously and against the Conscience of the Contrivers themselves of that rumour suggested to Our People) or from the least thought of invading the Liberty and property of the Subject, or violating the just Privileges of Parliament, that We call that God to witnesse, who hath covered Our Head in the day of Battell, that We desire (next Our Care for the Defence of Our Person) nothing more than to preserve and advance the true Reformed Protestant Religion established in the Church of England, in which We were born, have faithfully lived, and by the grace of God (till resolutely dye.) That the preservation of the Liberty and prosperity of the Subject in the due observation of the known Lawes of the Land, shall be equally Our care as the maintenance of Our own Rights, We desiring to govern onely by those good Lawes, which (when they were oppressed by tyrannous rebellion) preserved this Nation happy, and We do acknowledge the just Privileges of Parliament to be a principall part of those Lawes, and shall therefore most seriously defend and observe them. And that no subtile ex-

ther Religion, Law, or Liberty be precious to Our People, they will by their submission to Us joyn with Us in the defence of them, and thereby establish that Peace, by which onely they can flourish and be enjoyed. Whether these men, who are professed Enemies to the established Ecclesiasticall Government, who reproach and persecute the Learned Orthodox Ministers of the Church, and into their places put Ignorant, Seditious, and Scismaticall Preachers, who vilifie the Book of Common-Prayer, and impiously prophane Gods Worship with their scurrilous and seditious demeanour, are like to advance that Religion; whether those men who boldly, and without the least shadow or colour of Law, impose unsupportable Taxes and odious Excises upon their fellow-Subjects, Imprison, Torment, and murther them; are like to preserve the Liberty and Property of the Subject; and whether those men who seize and possesse themselves of Our own unquestionable Revenue, and Our just Rights, have denyed Us Our Negative voyce, have by force and violence awed and terrified the Members of both Houses, and lastly, (so far as in them lyes) dissolved the present Parliament by driving away and Imprisoning the Members, and resolving the whole power thereof, and more, into a Committee of a few Men, contrary to all Law, Custom, or Precedent, are like to vindicate and uphold the Priviledges of Parliament, all the world may judge. We doe therefore once more conjure Our good Subjects by their memory of that excellent Peace, and firm happinesse with which it pleased God to reward their Duty and Loyalty in time past, by their Oathes of Allegiance and Supremacy which no men now, or Cobweb contrived, and administred to and by themselves, can cancell or evade, by whatsoever is dear and precious unto them in this life, or hopes or prayed

for in the life to come, That they will remember their Duty and consider their Interest, and no longer suffer themselves to be mis-led, their Prince dishonoured, and their Countrey wasted and undone, by the malice and cunning of these State Impostours, who under pretence of Reformation would introduce whatsoever is monstrous and unnaturall both to Religion and Policy, but that they rather chuse quietly to enjoy their Religion, Property, and Liberty, founded and provided for by the wisdom and Industry of former times, and secured and enlarged by the blessings upon the present Age, then to spend their lives and fortunes to purchase Confusion, and to make themselves liable to the most intolerable kinde of slavery, that is, to be slaves to their fellow Subjects, who by their prodigious unheard of Acts of Oppression and Tyranny, have given them sufficient evidence what they are to expect at their hands. And let not Our good People, who have been mis-led, or through want of Understanding, or want of Courage submitted themselves to unwarrantable and disloyall Actions, be taught by their Seducers, that their safety now consists in dispaire, and that they can onely secure themselves for the Ills they have done, by a resolute and peremptory Disobedience. Revenge and Blood-thirstynesse have never been imputed to Us by those, who have left neither Our Government or Nature unexamined with the greatest boldnes and malice; and all those who since these bloody Distractions out of Conscience have returned from their evill wayes to Us, have found that it was not so easie for them to repent, as to Us to forgive; and whosoever hath been mis-led by those, whose hearts from the beginning have designed all this mischief, and shall redeem their past Crimes by their present Service and Loyalty in the apprehending, or opposing such who shall continue to bear Arms against Us,

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and shall use their utmost endeavours to reduce those men to their due Obedience, and to restore this Kingdom to it's wonted Peace, shall have cause to magnifie Our Mercy, and to repent the Trespasses committed against so Just and Gracious a Soveraign. Lastly, We desire all Our good Subjects, who have really assisted or really wished us well, when God hath done such wonderfull things for us, vigorously to endeavour to put an end to all these miseries, by contributing in Men, Money, Plate, Horses, or Arms to Our present use, being not meaning to Our selves, may reasonably expect the countenance of Gods favour to us all in that blessed Harmony of Affections, which may establish a firm Peace, without the spee-

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